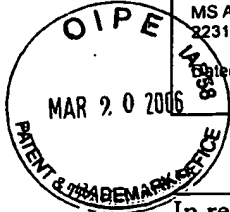


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: March 18, 2006

Signature:

*Richard H. Anderson*  
(Richard H. Anderson)

Docket No.: 30572/40755  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Fritz Appel et al.

Application No.: 10/021,684

Confirmation No.: 9199

Filed: December 11, 2001

Art Unit: 1742

For: METHOD FOR THE TREATMENT OF  
METALLIC MATERIALS

Examiner: S. Ip

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO**  
**FINAL OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Office Action dated December 19, 2005, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.

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